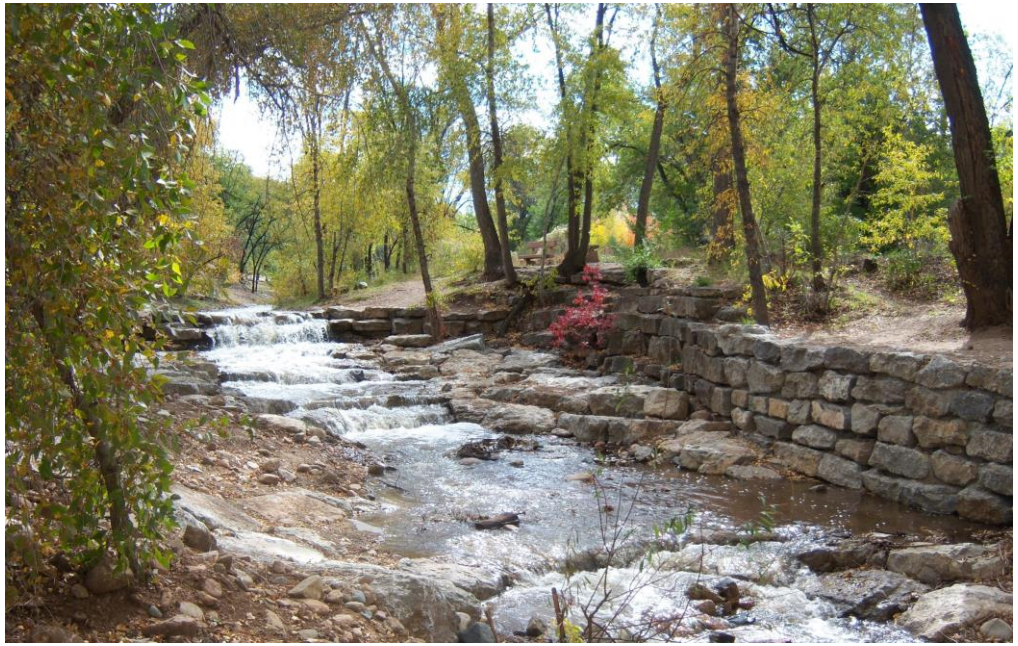
Stormwater Management Strategic Plan Implementation

Creating an Equitable Rate Structure & Ensuring Revenue

TETRA TECH

Agenda

- Introductions
- Santa Fe's Stormwater Challenges & Opportunities
- Existing Funding & Anticipated Expenditures
- Improving Utility Fee Sustainability & Equity
- Questions and Input



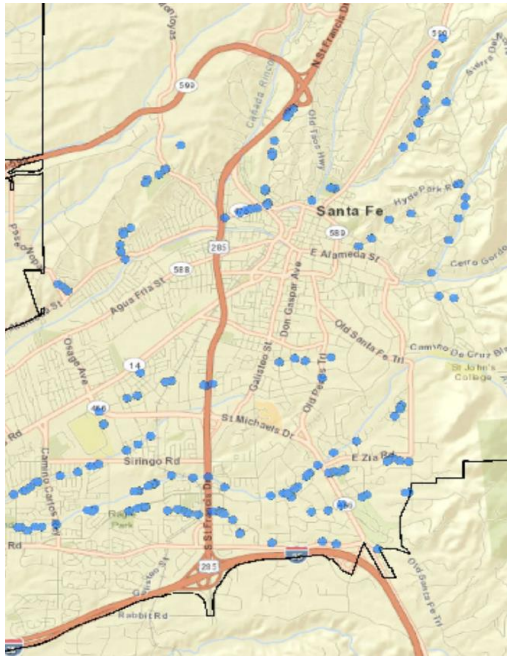
Santa Fe's Stormwater Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges

- Flooding and capacity
- Regulatory Requirements
  - Bacteria TMDL
  - Permit MS4
- Unmet water supply demand
- Changing Climate
  - Arroyo and river erosion
  - Drought
  - Storm intensities

Challenges

- Capacity & conditions
- Erosion threats to infrastructure & property
- Public & private property flood hazards
- Areas with no stormwater collection
- Dust abatement
- Maintenance and street cleaning
- Occasional acequia system intrusions



Objectives

How can Santa Fe more effectively manage our stormwater and protect groundwater and surface water resources from pollution and erosion in a cost-effective and compliant manner?

And how can we equitably pay for it?

Roadmap

Roadmap for City decision-makers to institutionalize a proactive, compliant, and sustainable stormwater management philosophy to protect and enhance residents' qualify of life.

Opportunities Identified

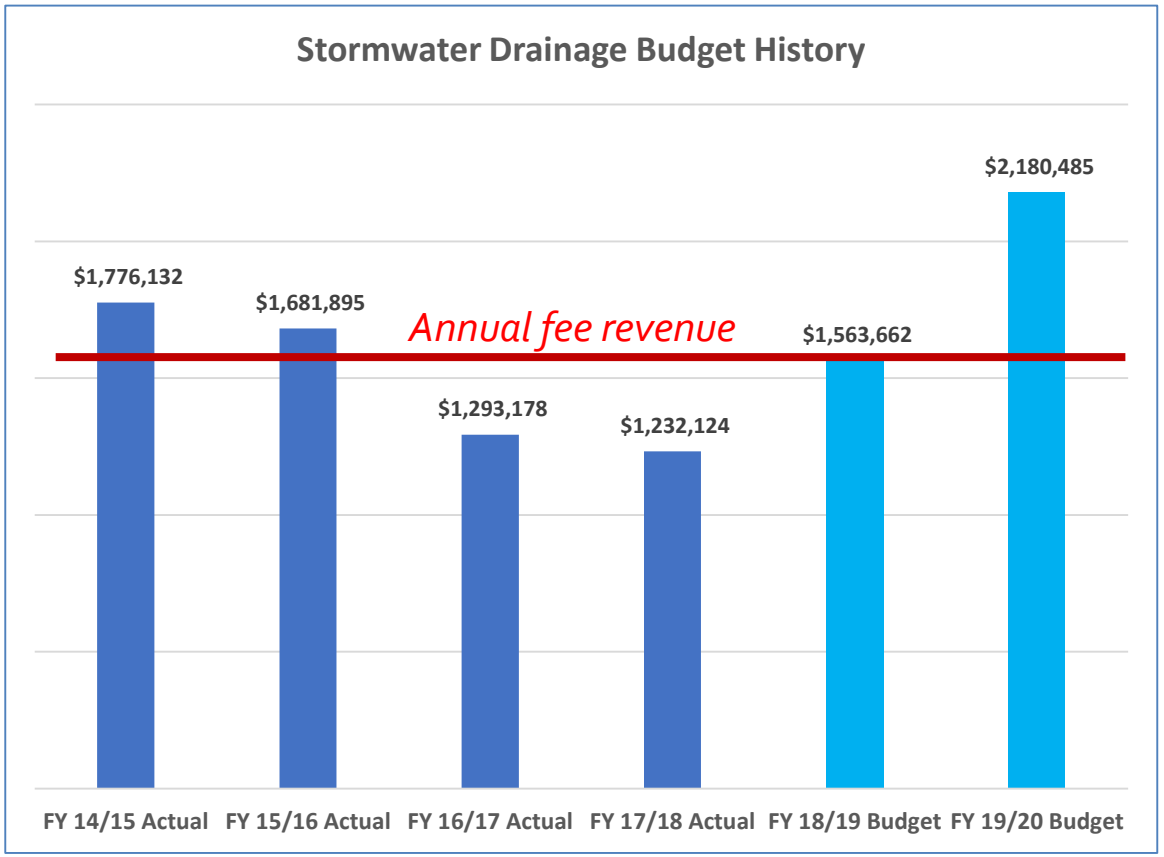
Create equitable rate structure and ensure revenue to:

- Reduce flooding and erosion potential
- Infiltrate to shallow aquifers
- Identify pollution sources
- Improve aging systems needing repair
- Protect pavements from damage
- Increase public safety for natural disasters
- Build systems with redundancy and biodiversity
- Align stormwater efforts with sustainability goals
- Use stormwater as resource to offset potable water use
- Comply with existing and new regulations

Improving Utility Fee Equity & Ensure Revenue

Existing Revenue Sources

- Utility Fee is based on Water Meter Size
- General Fund support for capital projects
- Grants



Strategies to Close the Gap

- Current identified public projects are estimated at $30 million dollars
- City efforts are underway to make further assessments of the drainage system
- Current funding levels are not adequate to sustainably address flooding, protect water-quality and comply with permit requirements.
- Options for addressing this gap are:
  - Adjust drainage fee
  - Apply for additional grant funding
  - Use bond/loan funding for capital projects
  - Special levies
  - Impact fees

HOW ARE OTHER CITIES FUNDING THEIR STORM WATER COSTS?

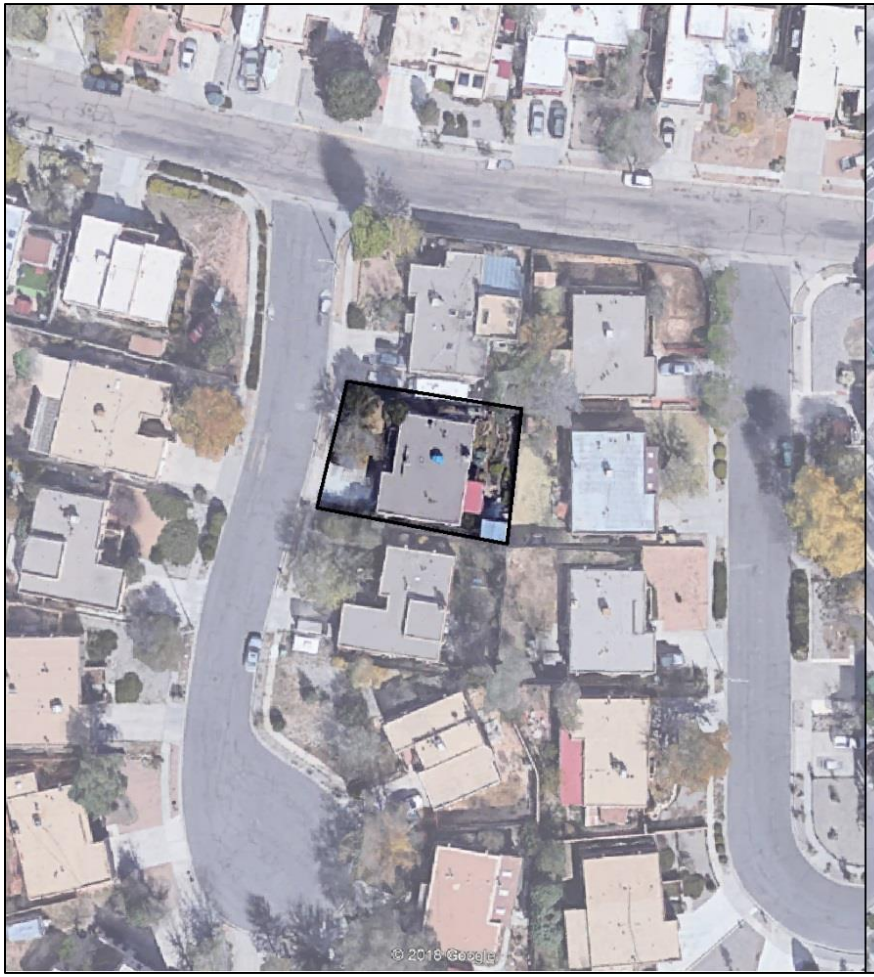
- BOULDER, CO
- PUEBLO, CO
- CENTENNIAL, CO
- GREELEY,CO
- LONGMONT, CO
- LOVELAND,CO
- SURPRISE, AZ
- SCOTTSDALE, AZ
- ORO VALLEY, AZ
- MESA, AZ
- BUCKEY, AZ
- OGDEN, UT
- ST George, UT
- Sandy, UT
- Orem, UT

Fee Structure

	Existing Fee Structure	Impervious Area Fee Structure
PROs	• Simple to Administer	• More equitable – fee proportional to capacity they use • Can use credits to adjust for specific conditions
CONs	• Fee unrelated to amount of runoff • No incentives to reduce runoff • Not equitable – overlooks paved parcels, increases burden on others	• More effort to administer

Both can apply senior, low income adjustments

Rate Structure Comparison



Single Family Residence

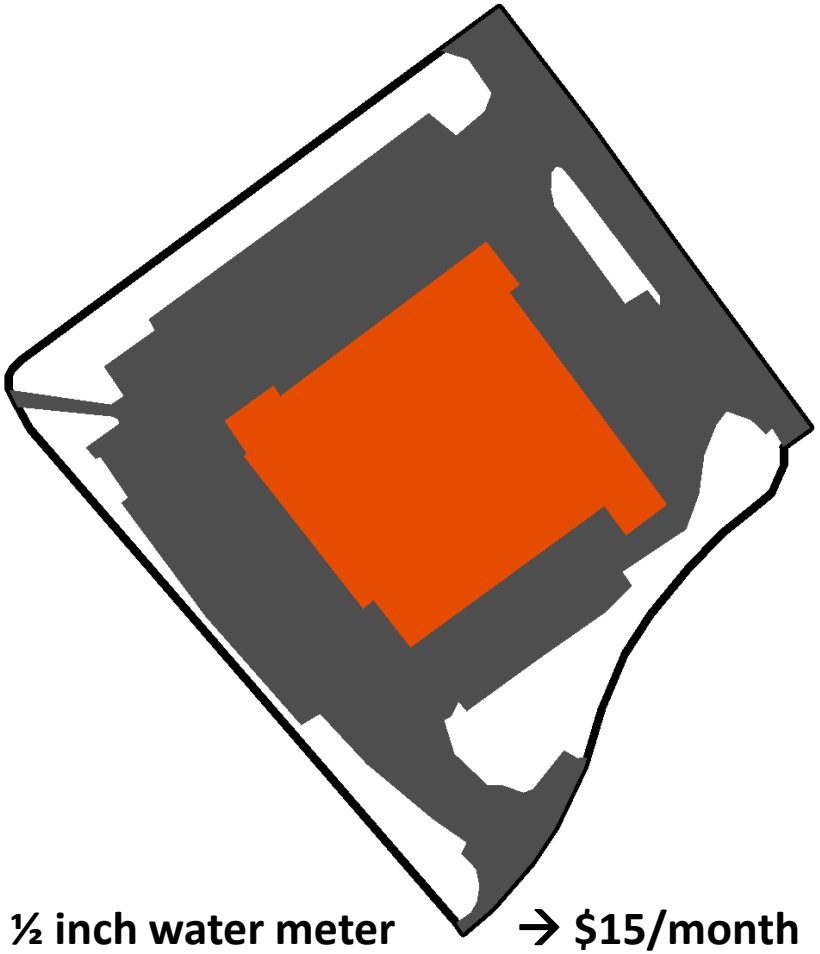
Commercial Site

Current Stormwater Charges

Impervious Cover

- Structures
- Pavement

5/8 inch water meter → $3/month



1 ½ inch water meter → $15/month

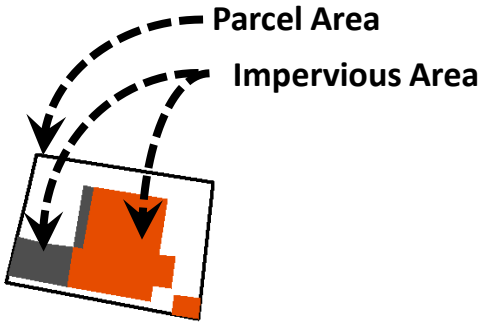
Commercial Charge = 5 x Residential

Relative Contributions of Runoff

Impervious Cover

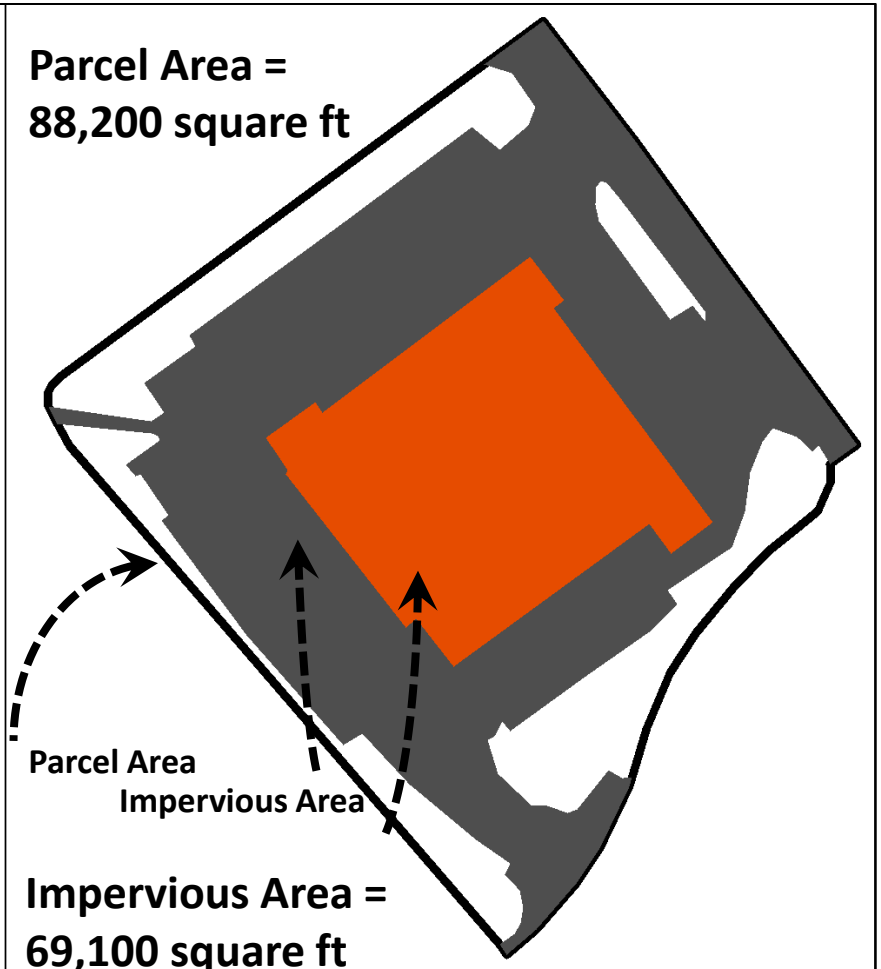
- Structures
- Pavement

Parcel Area = 5,800 square ft



Impervious Area = 2,800 square ft

Parcel Area = 88,200 square ft



Impervious Area = 69,100 square ft

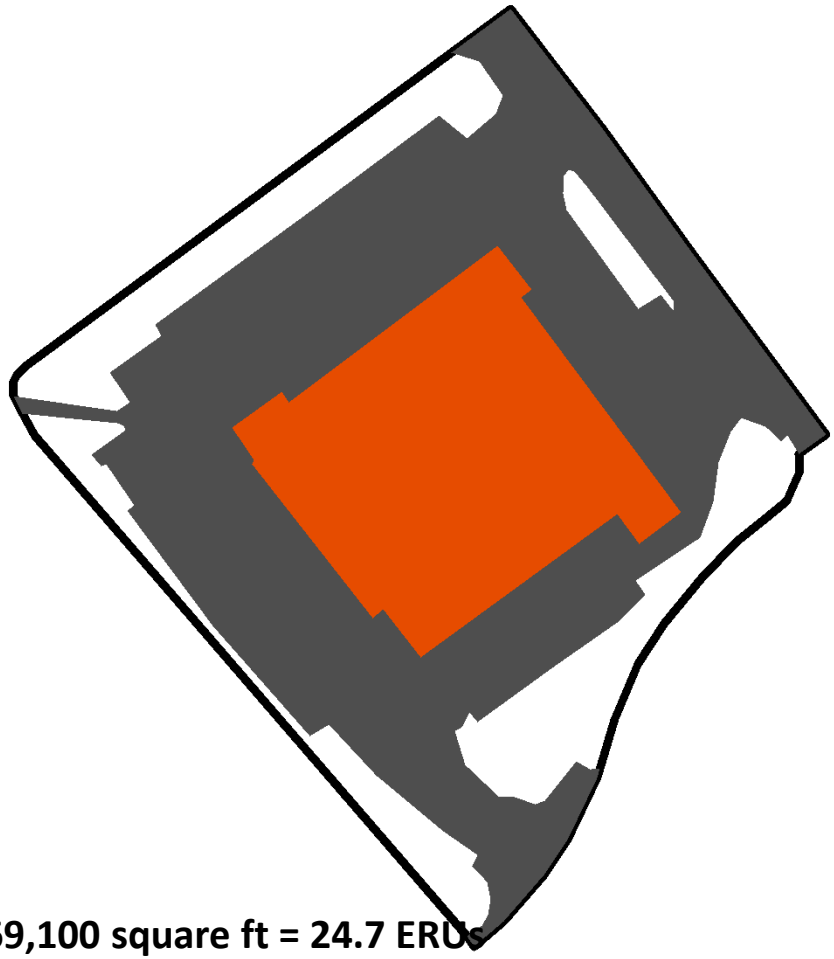
25 x more impervious area

Apportion Costs Based on Impervious Area

Impervious Cover

- Structures
- Pavement

2,800 square ft = 1 Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)



69,100 square ft = 24.7 ERUs

Reminder: Existing Commercial Charge Only 5 x Residential

Impervious Area – Based Fee Outcomes

- More properties share in the costs
- Costs more equitably distributed between property owners that use the City's stormwater management infrastructure
- Costs would be reproportioned towards larger properties with greater impervious coverage
- Incentives reduce impervious cover, use less system capacity, and could increase open space, vegetative cover, habitat, etc.

Additional Possible Incentives

- Rebates for infiltration systems
- Reduced charge to reflect onsite stormwater practices exceeding development requirements

Questions & Input

Contact Information

Melissa McDonald

River & Watershed Coordinator

City of Santa Fe Public Works

mamcdonald@santafenm.gov

505-955-6840

Rosemary Romero Consulting/Tetra Tech

romero.rosemary@gmail.com